

**March 1, 2021**

**Text: Isaiah 1:18-20**

“Come now, let us settle the matter,”  
says the Lord.  
“Though your sins are like scarlet,  
they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson,  
they shall be like wool.  
If you are willing and obedient,  
you will eat the good things of the land;  
but if you resist and rebel,  
you will be devoured by the sword.”  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

**Devotion:** Jillian Pruitt

My four-year-old loves to color. One of his favorite things to create with as many colors as possible are rainbows (He likes to tell me his picture is “rainbowly” - I know, adorable). But one thing he learned quickly is that the white crayon or the white colored pencil just does not show up well, even when he tries to put it on top of other colors. It is difficult to make the color white show up when there are other colors already present on the page.

In Isaiah, the Lord describes our sins “like scarlet” and as “red as crimson.” Those are pretty deep shades of red; and it would be really difficult to cover those shades and make them white. Yet, we are promised that our sins will be “white as snow” and “like wool.” That is an incredible promise! How can such a deep stain be erased? How can our sins, which separate us from our Heavenly Father and from others in our life, be made white as snow?

Think about a time in your life when a relationship was broken – you or someone else said or did something that seemed unforgivable. We’ve all experienced this brokenness, the hurt of a relationship falling apart. When I’ve experienced that pain, I remember wishing I could go back and never say or do what it was that caused so much pain. That is how serious our sin is to God – even those “small” sins break our relationship with God. He is so pure and just that He cannot tolerate ANYTHING against His perfect nature.

BUT GOD! Yes, I’m taking it back to Jen Welch’s devotional from last Monday. BUT GOD stepped in and He himself says “Let us settle the matter.” The prophet Isaiah speaks these words of God to the people of Israel that our sins will be ERASED - and we know it’s because of JESUS! He bore our sins – each and every one – on the cross of Calvary. And now we can be reconciled to God our Father. Praise be to God! Let us rest and live in that GRACE!